

4<sup>th</sup> September, 2021  
Ref: 000116

## RETURNING TO SCHOOL – MONDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 COVID-19 UPDATE



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have had a wonderful summer break with your loved ones. We are all looking forward to seeing the children back on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September.

As promised when we finished in the summer, I am writing to confirm arrangements for the start of the new term to help to continue to keep our whole school community as safe as possible. The latest guidance was made available to schools during the holiday. I am sure that many of you will be aware that in line with the government's roadmap out of lockdown, many control measures ceased to be legal requirements on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

After looking carefully at the new guidance, we have updated our Covid risk assessment. With the support of our Multi Academy Trust, DDAT, we have also put in place an outbreak management plan which takes into consideration the amendments that may need to take place to mitigate further risks of cross-infection under the advice of Public Health England e.g. in the event of a local outbreak. These documents can be found on our school [webiste](#).

All children in Year 1 and Year 2 will return full time on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September. To support with their transition, Reception children will have a phased start to school for the first two weeks, as already communicated by the EYFS team last term.

### Attendance

School attendance is mandatory for all children, and it is a priority that as many children as possible regularly attend school. The school has a duty to ensure good attendance and regularly monitors attendance of children. Where attendance becomes a cause for concern, the school [policy](#) will be followed.

Please note that holiday requests during term time will not be authorised. Requests for leave can only be approved in exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised holidays could result in a fixed penalty notice being issued by the Local Authority.

### Latest government guidance

As before, please continue to be aware of Covid symptoms and remain vigilant. Please do not send your child into school if they have had a positive LFD/ PCR test result or any of the following symptoms:

- new continuous cough
- fever (38C or above)
- loss of smell or taste

**The legal requirements for self-isolation have now changed.** People who live in the same household or have been a close contact of someone with Covid don't have to isolate if:

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Headteacher: Ms. K Leach

**DDAT**  
Derby Diocesan Academy Trust



- they are fully vaccinated
- they are younger than 8 years and 6 months
- they are part of an approved vaccine trial
- they can't be vaccinated for medical reasons

This means that your child will only need to self-isolate if they are displaying any symptoms of Covid - and then undertake a PCR test – or if they have tested positive.

Please continue to notify us if you have a positive case of Covid in your household so we can be more vigilant to possible symptoms during the school day.

If you (parent/carer) are showing Covid symptoms or have tested positive for Covid, as your child can continue attending school, you will need to make suitable arrangements for bringing your child to/from school as you will need to remain at home until you have completed your isolation period.

## Day-to-day operation

### Drop off and pick up arrangements

We will still be encouraging social distancing at the beginning and end of the school day and continuing to ask all parents to 'drop/off/pick up' and go' as promptly as possible.

Our main school gate will open at 8:45am and close promptly at 9am. Children arriving after 9am will be marked as late. When dropping off your child, please form a line alongside Gordon Road and say goodbye to your child when you are at the front. Staff will be available to help you. If your child is struggling to settle and they need a little longer, you will be invited through our main school gate to use our 'goodbye bench'. Parents/carers using the bench will still need to wear a face covering.

We have revised our end of day pick-up times. Please adhere to these timings to avoid a long queue alongside Gordon Road

<b>Nursery Bears</b>	11:45am		
<b>Reception Bears</b>	<b>Week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> September</b> 12pm	<b>Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> September</b> 1pm	<b>Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> September</b> 3:05pm
<b>Crocodiles</b>	3:05pm		
<b>Flamingos</b>	3:15pm		
<b>Elephants</b>	3:15pm		

If you have siblings across school with differing finishing times (excluding Nursery) then please arrive at the later time of 3:15pm.

We will be issuing hand sanitiser to children on arrival through our main school gate. Children will then thoroughly wash their hands once they are in their classrooms.

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### **'Bubbles'**

Children will no longer be staying in 'bubbles' and will return to sharing toilets, play areas, the main hall for Collective Worship and for lunchtimes. We will continue to avoid 'mixing' as much as possible e.g. children sitting in classes. Increased cleaning procedures and routines during the day, after school and throughout the week will remain in place.

Children will be with their class teacher and adults that work in their classroom as much as possible in the same year but there will sometimes be a crossover of staff and groups of children e.g. when grouping children for phonics. We will mitigate the risk of infection by keeping to the hygiene guidelines e.g. maintaining good hand hygiene, including washing hands/using hand sanitiser between groups.

Children will share resources but increased cleaning will take place and children will be encouraged to wash hands regularly after use. Windows and doors will be open where possible to increase ventilation in classrooms. We have been informed by the Department for Education that all schools will receive carbon dioxide monitors to monitor suitable ventilation in the Autumn term. We are awaiting further information.

### **Lunchtimes**

All children will return to eating their lunch in the main school hall but we are continuing with a staggered timetable to minimise the number of children together at any one time. We continue to encourage all children to have a school dinner (they are free!). We are still not permitting home dinners to minimise the number of contacts during the school day.

### **Face coverings**

Face coverings are no longer required but staff will be continuing to wear them on the main school gate in the morning and at the end of the school day as social distancing cannot be guaranteed. Parents may wish to continue wearing face coverings when dropping off/collecting.

Children are still not permitted to wear face coverings when in school. If you would like your child to wear a face covering to/from school then you must ensure that you remove it prior to your child entering the main school gate and take it home with you.

Parents/carers still need to wear a face covering when entering school premises e.g. to attend a parent meeting, parent workshop.

### **Face-to-face communication**

To reduce the risk to staff and yourselves, we ask that you continue to communicate via Class Dojo or the school telephone (01332 345997) as much as possible. We will be rotating our gate timetable so that every teacher will have a morning outside in the event that you need to speak with them. When speaking with any staff member, please maintain social distancing as much as possible.

**Class Dojo must not be used to report absence.** Absence needs to be reported before 9:30am via telephone or through our dedicated email [hello@stchads.derby.sch.uk](mailto:hello@stchads.derby.sch.uk)

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As our office area is very small, we will still not be permitting parents 'casually' on site e.g. to drop off an item. Please use the buzzer and a member from the office will meet you at the gate.

### Parent workshops

We will be resuming parent events, workshops and classes in school but group sizes will continue to be restricted and additional safety measures will be put in place e.g. wearing of a face covering at all times.

### After school clubs

We will be resuming after school clubs. Our clubs for this term will be shared over the coming weeks ahead. Please can I remind parents that we do not operate a breakfast club. All children receive an optional free breakfast bagel on arrival into school. *(We will not be issuing bagels to new Nursery/Reception children until allergen information has been completed by parents/carers).*

### Trips

We will be resuming trips and local outings, these will be carefully risk assessed and all arrangements will be shared with parents/carers in advance.

### And finally....

The school website has an abundance of information to support your child's return to school so please do have a look. From Monday, we will resume our regular posting of information via Class Dojo. Please ensure that you have downloaded the app and keep 'checking in' regularly.

Miss Gilsenan has already been doing lots of posting on Class Dojo for new Nursery and Reception parents in preparation for starting school so please ensure that you have read her messages/looked at her resources and videos.

If you have any queries contact the school email: [admin@stchads.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stchads.derby.sch.uk) or telephone during school hours from Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September.

We look forward to welcoming you all back to school, please enjoy the rest of the weekend. See you very soon!

Kind regards,



Ms. K Leach                  Headteacher

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